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"Ask not what your country can do for you..." Understanding veterans of the Vietnam Era

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“ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU...”
Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era

A Thesis for partial completion of a Master of Fine Arts degree
at Rochester Institute of Technology

By Tom Hussey

ADVISORS

Ken White, Chair
Associate Professor
Fine Art Photography Department

Dr. Richard Zakia
Professor
Fine Art Photography Department

Grant Romer
Head Conservator
IMPGEH

THESIS PROJECT

GOAL

To fulfill partial completion of a Master of Fine Arts degree in the Museum Studies Concentration at Rochester Institute of Technology, I organized and mounted an exhibition of photographs and writings relating directly to a group of Vietnam War Veterans from the Rochester, New York, area. The exhibit took place at The Center at High Falls, Rochester Room Gallery from November 4th–28th, 1994. This project put upon me many of the responsibilities associated with museum style exhibitions; such as—curator, fund-raiser, producer, designer, etceteras.

Work progressed with the help of advisers, including Dr. Richard Zakia, Ph.D.—former chairman of the Fine Art Photography Department at R.I.T., Mr. Ken White—current chairman of the Fine Art Photography Department at R.I.T., and Grant Romer—Head Conservator of the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House.

PERSONAL RATIONALE

About twenty-five years ago, during my early childhood, a large group of Americans fought in Southeast Asia. Those Americans were coming of age at a very emotional and change filled time in this country's history. They were caught on a wave that they did not start but that they were to ride to the present day. On January 20, 1961, the wave was started by John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address.

...Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. . .

...To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. . .

...Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle year in and year out. . .Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with

any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. . .

From John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

I was in a military family—and therefore (if only subconsciously) understood the war in Vietnam to be justifiable and correct. If our military was involved, then we must be the good guys and *they* must be the bad guys (whoever *they* were). My father was going to go to this war. So, Vietnam had to be right in my 1970 because my dad definitely was a good guy. There were many service aged men and women who at that time believed America was right and one should support our country.

"I had listened to that speech (JFK's Inaugural Address) from the couch...Not knowing where these words would eventually lead our country and believing in this new president, we were carried along by the noble sentiments of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. We all felt ourselves part of a just and honorable nation when he said, "To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the communists are doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right."...As John Kennedy spoke, we never even thought about Vietnam. We only thought about how inspirational he was and how he would lead us into a new era...I touched (my father's) his arm as we heard our new president confidently issue those climactic words that would become the touchstone of an entire generation: "And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." ¹

Vietnam was a sort of game to me. The airplanes and "army-men" that I saw each night on the television news interested me. But, they were just pictures without meaning to a small boy. On March 21, 1970, my father's best friend, Major Edward M. Hudgens, was shot down over Laos and listed as Missing in Action (MIA). I remember vividly the day we heard the news. All of a sudden the Vietnam War had a human element for me. I knew Major Hudgens. I played with his kids. He was real. Vietnam was somehow no longer just a game with neat airplanes and army-men.

Later in my life I began to look for information on the Vietnam War in my school library. I found many books on all of America's wars except Vietnam. I wondered why. There was no longer any mention of the war or it's aftermath on the television news. The game was over and it seemed to me that just when I became interested nobody wanted to talk about it. It was now very bad to have been in the war. It was

¹ Home Before Morning By Lynda Van Devanter with Christopher Morgan p23

no longer *cool* that my father had been a fighter pilot. This I did not understand. It was not the Veteran's fault that they were in Vietnam.

"Everywhere I looked it seemed that Vietnam Veterans were being shunned and reviled, and again I could not reconcile my fathers triumphal return from W.W.II with my own experience. I understood that the protected element of society tended to want to avoid sharing the horrors suffered by its warriors, but society did not seem to understand that those of us who fought the war needed to talk through our feelings and to receive some form of validation for our sacrifices. When I finally came to understand that my contemporaries did not want to share the pivotal experience of my life, I learned to keep my silence." ²

Roughly 3 million Americans served in Vietnam, and roughly 9.1 million served during the Vietnam Era. These men and women are as diverse as any other linked group in this country. This statement does not necessarily agree with the media stereotype that has portrayed all Vietnam Vets as crazed and explosive men.

"The men I had led in combat were like any cross section of American youth, capable of good and evil, and I felt we all were, by implication, being branded as murderers and rapists." ³

These people are your next door neighbors, your teachers, police officers, firemen, and often—your boss. Their "Vietnam experience" is the only event that unifies them. Vietnam brought them together during the 1960's and early 1970's, and through organizations like the Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam is bringing them back together and into the open now twenty-five to thirty years later.

I feel that a large segment of the general public still holds the conviction that Vietnam Veterans are screwed-up from the war and are not normal. They think that a Vietnam Vet is just as likely to mug you as to shake your hand—that they are homeless and drug addicted. These problems do exist, but are far from the norm.

For the past five years I have been actively involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America; Genesee Valley Chapter #20, in Rochester, New York. I have become friends with the men and women who were fighting in Vietnam during the 1960's and early 1970's. I have talked with them about their experiences and feelings concerning their military service during Vietnam. I have seen the good that they do for the community. I know how they feel about their country and their service to that country.

² Fortunate Son By Lewis B. Puller, Jr. p278

³ Fortunate Son By Lewis B. Puller, Jr. p305

"On Friday, April 23, in a culmination of the events of the week, the protesting veterans were scheduled to march up the steps of the Capitol and discard their medals as a symbolic gesture of their feeling of having been discarded themselves by the nation...

On Thursday night, before the climactic last day's events in Washington, I took my medals from our bedroom closet and debated whether I should drive to Washington to throw them away. As I sat silently in the dimly lit closet feeling the weight of bronze and silver in my hand and studying the red white and blue stripes on my silver star and the majestic cameo of George Washington on my purple hearts, I knew that I could never part with them. They had cost me too dearly, and though I now saw clearly that the war in which they had been earned was a wasted cause, the medals still represented the dignity and the caliber of my service and of those with whom I had served. I could no more discard them than I could repudiate my country, my Marine Corps, or my fellow veterans. As I put them away, I was very sad but very grateful nonetheless that my children were asleep in their beds in America rather than anywhere else in the world." ⁴

Through my photographs and the Veteran's writings, I hope to have shown what I perceive to be a truer version of the stereotypical Vietnam Vet. I also feel, having completed my work on this project, that I am better able to understand and put into perspective my own *Vietnam Era experience*.

"Maybe there were American soldiers who could forget about the inane regulations that always seemed to get in the way of the job to be done. Maybe they could ignore the petty harassment and make-work details that came during lulls in the fighting. Maybe they could avert their eyes from their buddies dying. Or from the young children without limbs. Or the Vietnamese women who were forced to prostitute themselves to stay alive. Maybe there were some normal healthy all-American men and women who could spend 365 days in that crazy environment and never ask why. If there were I never met them." ⁵

When I began this project, I wanted to show these veterans as the cross section of the population they are. The more I got to know the individuals, the more I realized that each of them has something to share. I could never begin to tell their stories, but I am thankful that I have listened. Please take time to listen to them as I have. I truly hope this project gives people new and different perspective on the Vietnam Era and on the men and women who served our country during that turbulent time.

Tom Hussey

⁴ Fortunate Son By Lewis B. Puller, Jr. p311

⁵ Home Before Morning By Lynda Van Devanter with Christopher Morgan p211

OPERATIONAL PLAN

DESIGN CONCEPT

To present, by an exhibit of photographs and writings, a truer face of the representative Vietnam Veteran. The format will be traditional; i.e.—pictures on walls in frames. The Veteran's writings will be mounted and displayed next to each portrait.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This exhibit was specifically targeted toward and accessible to Rochester, New York's, general public, aged 16 years and older. Through my choice of exhibit space, those who would not ordinarily seek out photography exhibitions or things dealing with veteran's issues viewed the show.

GALLERY SEARCH

I felt this show had to, by its very definition, be held in a public space. In searching for a space, I considered many alternatives before finding and settling on the Rochester Room Gallery at The Center at High Falls.

I considered the extreme—the public space of a shopping mall. However, the mall atmosphere is too public to allow people to read and reflect on what the Veteran's writings have to say. I also considered the Rochester International Airport, a space that regularly holds artistic exhibits. I felt the space available for display was too limiting both in size and in accessibility to the writings. A traditional photography/art gallery such as at Light Impressions I felt was too limiting in its outreach to the general public.

Finally, it was suggested by one of the veterans, that I look into the gallery at The Center at High Falls in the Brown's Race District of Downtown Rochester. The Center at High Falls is a newly restored turn of the century industrial complex in Downtown Rochester. The Center has become a heavily visited tourist area consisting of a gallery, a museum about the history of the area, a convention center

and several restaurants. There is a nightly laser show that draws many to the center as well.

The Center at High Falls offered a good mix of broad public access and appeal, combined with a traditional gallery space in which to hang the show. The Center's staff is also used to dealing with events of all kinds and was helpful with the logistics of an exhibit including publicity and catering. They were also able to arrange for groups of school children to tour the exhibit with a guide. They were also able to arrange private showing of the exhibit for a group of 100 Vietnamese refugees and their families. I was going to be present for the refugees but was called out of town.

There were some downsides to The Center at High Falls gallery. Being more of a public space than a traditional gallery, there were unexpected things to deal with. For instance, the Rochester Room Gallery is used for lectures throughout the year. These lectures vary, but mostly deal with issues of local history. I arrived at the gallery one afternoon with Grant Romer and we were confronted with a room full of folding chairs and people listening to one such talk. The gallery was also decorated for the Christmas Holidays, complete with a lighted tree and wreaths on all the windows. This is festive and nice in most ways, but my show was re-hung to accommodate the decorations—not so much upsetting, but rather, mildly annoying and at the same time somehow quaint.

EXHIBIT CONTENTS

The exhibit consisted of one half photographs and one half writings. Thirty-six 16x20 inch B&W portrait photographs in 20x24 inch frames were exhibited with thirty-six personal writings provided by the veterans photographed. The writings, wall labels, titles, an excerpt from John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, thank you credits, and an artist statement were mounted on foamcore and displayed next to the photographs.

P H O T O G R A P H S

Photographs were created by Tom Hussey. They consist of traditional black and white portraits archivally printed 16x20 inches. Black metal frames were assembled by Tom Hussey, and the photographs were archivally mounted and overmatted.

I did a lot of test shooting in preparation for the main photography. I photographed several of the veterans who had become friends of mine and who believed in the project. I tried different camera formats, films, and photographic techniques searching for a look that I thought would lend a feeling of pride, intensity, patriotism, and strength to the images.

I settled on B&W studio portraits using a square format camera and a device called a Turbofilter. The Turbofilter is a split-diffusion device that allows the photographer to place sharp and soft-focus areas within the same frame. As a background, I used a very large American flag draped in varying ways to fit the personality or bearing of the individual subject. The American flag symbolizes the strong patriotism among these Veterans.

W R I T I N G S

The written portion of the exhibit consisted of three main parts: personal writings from the Vietnam Veterans portrayed in the photographs, an artist statement, and titles identifying the photographs.

I did not feel qualified on my own to format a set of guidelines for the Veteran's writings. For this reason, I set up a committee of VVA members to assist me. We met three times formally and talked informally about the intent of the show and their personal feelings from the war. From this committee I was able to draft a set of "Idea Stimulators" to help the Veterans convey their feelings on paper. On the next page is a copy of what was sent to each Veteran in the show:

September 13, 1994

Dear Vets,

I hope that this note finds you well. Enclosed please find:

Suggested topics—developed with the help of several of your fellow veterans

A copy of the proposal for the show—this will tell you about me and why I am putting on this show

Example writings that I have collected over the years

Flyers about the show that you can pass out, mail to friends, display at local businesses, etc.

First, I want to update everyone about the show. The title of the exhibit is: *"Ask not what your country can do for you..."Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era*. The exhibit will be in the Rochester Room at The Center at High Falls in the Brown's Race district near Kodak Office from November 4th, through November 28th. Friday, November 4th, there will be an opening reception that I hope you will make every effort to attend. The show is being widely publicized and is open to the public—as is the opening reception. (*You will all receive personal invitations to the opening.*)

As promised, I am sending you some suggested topics for your part of the exhibit. I am asking each of you to relate something about your *Vietnam Experience*. Your writings are very important to the core purpose of this show—to portray the Vietnam Era Veteran in a better light. As you read over this stuff, particularly the sample writings, I think you'll agree that the writings will add much to the impact of the show. I look forward to your addition to the exhibit.

Please read over the examples that I have enclosed and use the statements below to help you through any writers blockage. Don't worry about handwriting vs. typing. I will be formatting the writings so that they are more uniform. Thank you all for your help so far, and for the writings to come.

Take Care!
Tom Hussey

PLEASE USE THESE AS "IDEA STIMULATORS"

The following are some subjects put forth by other Vietnam Era Veterans to be used as a point of departure. The writings will add that *real person*—personal aspect to the show.

- What would you like your children to know about your experience with Vietnam?
- Describe the object you hold in the photograph and why it has meaning to you and/or why you have kept it.
- Family left behind. Dear John's. Mail call. Fear of telegram from serviceman.
- Why did I not contemplate fear? Can you? We were all too young to know fear. Speed of travel to and from Vietnam.
- Why am I a living history resource?
- Why shouldn't I be proud to have served?
- Arriving in country and deciding *not* to be a hero.
- When going home, why was I both happy and sad at the end of a tour.
- "I had all this pride; I made it. I did what I thought was right. Why did you blame the soldiers? I thought it was my duty to serve.

If you have any questions, please call me at home 328-8637, or page me at 1(800)918-6260 and leave either a voice message or a number where I can reach you.

I need these writings no later than Friday, October 7, 1994!

You may leave them at the VVA/VOC house or mail them to me—

(If you mail them, please make a copy for yourself in case the original is lost.)

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS

While The Center at High Falls provides it's own overall museum security 24 hours a day, there was no security either using a guard or a surveillance camera specific to the *Rochester Room Gallery*—where the exhibit would take place. I was able to enter The Center at High Falls' at various times of the day and night bringing things into and taking things out of the gallery space without being asked the nature of my business. The Center at High Falls was not willing to allow volunteers to guard the show 24 hours a day. For this reason as well as the fact that I was unable to obtain cost effective insurance to cover any loss or damage to artifacts on display I decided to incorporate artifacts into the exhibit as an integral part of the photographs. The veterans were photographed holding their own personal artifacts.

FUNDING FOR THE EXHIBIT

After estimating the costs to mount the exhibit as envisioned, I set about finding funds to offset the personal expenses of the show. I decided to follow these possible areas to obtain moneys; grant money, funds from the VVA Chapter in Rochester, and donations and discounts on materials and services useful in completing the show.

GRANTS

In August of 1993, I applied for a Community Arts Grant, through the New York State Council on the Arts as administered in Monroe County by Arts for Greater Rochester. As these moneys were to be given in the name of non-profit organizations, I was sponsored by The Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester, New York.

In September of 1993, I was contacted by one of the members of the grant review panel by phone and interviewed as to the nature and benefit of my proposed project. This phone interview was the only contact I had with the grant panel members.

On December 10, 1993, I was notified that my project had been awarded a \$1,500.00 Community Arts Grant. The moneys were to be paid in two installments of \$750.00 each. I was required to:

- I. Fill out a budget sheet showing expenditures.
- II. Fill out an after event summary detailing the specifics of the event as to turnout, press attention, and artistic merit.
- III. Credit The New York State Council on the Arts for the funds in all PR materials as well as within the exhibit.

VVA CHAPTER #20

The VVA chapter was approached in June of 1994 as a possible source of funds. The chapter was in a transitional phase financially and was therefore unable to support the project financially. The chapter board did express overwhelming approval and pledged to help in any other way they could.

There is some indication that the chapter might be able to help with turning this exhibit into published work for distribution and sale. This aspect of the project is currently in the research phase.

D O N A T I O N S & D I S C O U N T S

I approached the photographic retailers and manufacturers in hopes of obtaining donations. I was successful in obtaining:

- I. Donated photographic paper by Oriental Photo Distributing Co.
- II. Volunteer help in assembling the frames.
- III. Volunteer help typing the veterans writings into a computer.
- IV. Graphic design, layout, and output of show posters, gallery signage, and invitations by Johnine Carlone at Rumrill Hoyt, Inc.
- V. A discount on framing materials from Light Impressions, Inc., Rochester, New York.

PUBLICATION OF A BOOK

This project in its nature lends itself to publication as a book. In mid 1995, work was begun on this aspect of the project.

MAKING A BOOK

This show involves a lot of reading and in its nature is a very personal experience much like a book. Several people have suggested that I pursue getting it published. There was no show catalog made as time and costs would have been prohibitive.

In order to market this project for publication, I decided to make press kits or prospectuses consisting of several photographs from the show with their accompanying writings, an artist statement, and media reviews of the 1994 Rochester exhibit. Three mock-up books have been constructed. One has been left with the VVA Chapter in Rochester, New York, one was given to a donor, and one is reserved for sending to publishers who show interest after my initial contact.

RESEARCHING PUBLISHERS

At this point a list of possible publishers has been gathered and I am in the initial phases of sending out samples to them. So far, one publisher has expressed interest in the project and requested a complete mock-up for their review.

THESIS TIMELINE

The following is the order in which work on this project progressed. Many of the tasks happened concurrently, and some are still actively being pursued. This is only a guide for reference as to the length of time required to prepare and mount an exhibit of this type. The search for a book publisher is on-going and is only slightly represented in this timeline.

Applied for Community Arts Grant through AGR	August of 1993
Seeking Other Sources of Funding	August 1993 through the present
Phone Interview for AGR Grant	September 1993
Notification of Award of AGR Grant	December 10, 1993
Planning Image Look	February through June 1994
Test Photography	June & July, 1994
Primary Photography	July through October of 1994
Processing, Contacting, & Work Prints	August through October of 1994
Collecting Writings	August through October of 1994
Printing of Show Images	September & October of 1994
Printing of Book Images	October & November of 1994
Entering Writings into a Computer	October, 1994
Printing Writings	October, 1994
Mounting Writings	Last week of October, 1994
Framing of Show	Last week of October, 1994
Hanging of Show	November 2 & 3, 1994
Opening Reception	November 4, 1994
Show Run	November 4-28, 1994
Dismantling of exhibit	November 29 & 30, 1994
Distribution of Prints to Veterans	December 1-10, 1994
Compile a List of Publishers	May 1995
Mail Prospectuses to Publishers	June 1995 through the Present

THE AFTERMATH

The exhibit was over for me almost before it started. All of the late nights, the hard work, up on the walls then down so quickly. I think for this reason, more than any I would like this work published so that it may continue its life. Below is some of the immediate feedback I received.

COMMENT BOOK

The following are excerpts from the comment book left in the gallery during the run of the exhibit:

"Although too young to remember Vietnam, I have gotten somewhat of a sense of the kind of a person that is a Vietnam Veteran. Pride, loyalty, extreme sacrifice and above all devotion to duty. A duty not sought out but asked of and delivered. Some of the finest soldiers I served with were Vietnam Veterans and I admire them totally. I have lived with their flashbacks, was an understanding sounding board to their stories- or lack of them, during long nights in the field. I just wish I could understand the whole reasoning behind over a decade of sacrifice and duty they were asked to do. Sometimes things don't always make sense. Vietnam Veterans are among the finest people this country had and has to offer. Welcome home and God Bless."

"Thank you for caring. I guess that in the back of my mind twenty-five years ago that it all would someday be worth the effort hoping that people like you would follow our generation. I was right you were worth the effort! God Bless."

"Bravo! An excellent exhibition and even more cheers for tackling a subject not explained enough to 'the rest of us.'" I felt fortunate to get a high lottery number in 1973—but I would have served if called. Now I understand why!"

"...Our stories are coming out thanks to you. This is the best thing I have seen in a long time. You're competing with 'The Wall...'"

M A I L

I received a several letters in the mail regarding the exhibit:

"I'd like to express to you my feelings about the exhibit... I want to thank you for providing these men with a public forum to express feelings related to Vietnam that they have probably been wanting to say for twenty or more years."

"...few groups of people have traveled a rockier road to dignity and respect than these men were forced to travel by their country. Thorough your exhibit, their dignity and courage literally shines through on the walls of the High Fall Exhibit hall..."

"...thirty six people were staring out at me from those walls saying LISTEN TO ME...I too am glad I took the time to listen to them as you did..."

N E W S M E D I A

See attached reprint of an article from the November 11, 1994 Democrat and Chronicle Newspaper in Rochester, New York.

ESTIMATED COSTS

PHOTOGRAPHS

I.	Costs involved in photographing	
	10 days of photography time @ \$800.00 per day	\$8000.00
	Assistant for 10 days @ \$60.00 per day	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
	PHOTOGRAPHY TOTAL	\$8600.00
II.	Film costs	
	80 rolls of 120 format Kodak T-MAX 100°	\$ 200.00
	15 Polaroid Type 664 film in twin packs	\$ 241.95
	Processing film plus one contact sheet @ \$7.00 per roll	<u>\$ 560.00</u>
	FILM AND PROCESSING TOTAL	\$1001.95
III.	Printing of photographs	
	Two sets of 11x14 prints (20 different views)	
	<i>One set for exhibit, one set for V.V.A. Chapter #20 Archive</i>	
	\$44 per print for the first set	\$ 880.00
	\$22 for the second set.	<u>\$ 440.00</u>
	PRINT TOTAL	\$1320.00
IV.	Framing of photographs	
	16x20 wooden frames with Plexiglas and 100% rag mat board; assembled by Tom Hussey in an archival manner.	
	Cost per 16x20 <i>framed</i> and matted package	\$ 48.50
	Cost per 16x20 matted only package	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
	FRAMING TOTAL (for 20 framed and 20 matted)	\$1470.00
V.	Cost Totals	
	Per image—20 framed images and 20 matted images	\$ 309.80
	TOTAL COST FOR PHOTOGRAPHY	\$12,391.95

WRITINGS

I.	Typesetting and formatting of Vietnam Veterans' writings, artist's statement, and gallery wall labels for consistency and readability.	
	One day computer and typist's time	\$ 100.00
II.	Mounting, matting, and framing artist's statement and vet's writings.	
	Materials and labor (<i>estimated</i>)	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
	TOTAL COST FOR WRITINGS	\$ 400.00

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS

I.	Archival holding boxes to house artifacts before and after exhibit	\$ 40.00
II.	Display cases for exhibition (estimated)	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
	TOTAL COST FOR ARTIFACTS	<u>\$ 240.00</u>

OTHER COSTS

PUBLICITY

I.	Posters	
	Design costs	
	Printing costs	
II.	Invitations to opening and/or announcements about show	
	Design costs	
	Printing costs	
III.	Postage costs	

TRAVEL

GALLERY DIMENSIONS NEEDED

Sizes of IMPGEH Galleries for comparison. *See Mike Easley about sizes (linear—running feet of wall space) of North and South Gallery @ IMPGEH.*

ESTIMATED COSTS TO TRAVELING

This exhibit is not conceived as a traveling show.

I.	Construction of suitable shipping crates	
	10 crates @ \$350.00 each	\$3500.00
II.	Packing and Shipping costs	
	50 packing pads @ \$6.50 each	\$ 325.00
	Postage and shipping insurance	\$
III.	Releases for loaned Historical Artifacts	

PUBLICATION

See Pat Musolf @ IMPGEH. Take three types of publications for reference.

- I. Design
- II. Budget

FINAL COSTS OF THE EXHIBIT

P H O T O G R A P H Y C O S T S

Photographing Costs (Donated)

10 days of photography time with an assistant **8600.00**

Film & Processing

180 rolls of 120 format Kodak T-MAX 100° (\$2.50ea) 450.00

Processing of 180 rolls with contact sheets (\$8.00ea) 1,440.00

Polaroid

220 B&W Polaroids (\$1.60ea) 352.00

Printing

Work prints

Approximately 80 8x10 (\$6.00ea) 480.00

Exhibition prints

36-16x20 prints for show (\$65.00ea) 2,340.00

Prints for the Veterans in the show

36-11x14 prints for Veterans(\$22.00) 792.00

Total Photography Costs **\$14,454.00**

ACTUAL Photography Costs **\$ 5,854.00**

F R A M I N G & D I S P L A Y C O S T S

Frames

36-20x24 black metal frames with glass (\$18.75ea) 675.00

Wall Labels

Foam core, Tape, and Miscellaneous 100.00

Matts

36-20x24 archival quality matts (\$12.25ea) 441.00

Total Framing Costs **\$ 1,216.00**

W R I T I N G C O S T S

Secretarial time to enter writings into a computer (Donated) 0.00

Printing Costs for Display Writings 50.00

Design Costs (Donated) 0.00

Wall Labels, Artist Statement, Kennedy Speech 25.00

Total Writing Costs **\$ 75.00**

GALLERY COSTS

Invitations	
Printing (Donated)	0.00
Postage	58.00
Opening night reception (Donated)	<u>0.00</u>
Total Gallery Costs	\$ 58.00

PUBLICITY COSTS

Design costs (Donated)	0.00
Printing costs	<u>100.00</u>
Total Publicity Costs	\$ 100.00

BOOK COPY FOR VVA

36–8x10 prints (\$6.00ea)	216.00
Black spiral bound book	15.00
Writings (book size)	<u>15.00</u>
Total Costs for VVA Book	\$ 246.00

BOOK COPY FOR PUBLICATION SEARCH

36–8x10 prints (\$6.00ea)	216.00
Black spiral bound book	15.00
Writings (book size)	15.00
Press Kits for Publishers	90.00
Mailing costs	<u>50.00</u>
Total Costs for Publication Book	\$ 386.00

<i>TOTAL SHOW COSTS</i>	\$ 16,535.00
ACTUAL SHOW COSTS	\$ 7,935.00

Not a game
Linda Langley-
Barrett was an
Army nurse.
She holds a cap
she won in a
checkers game
with one of her
patients, who
had lost both
his legs in
Vietnam.
He later killed
himself.



PHOTOS

Souvenirs of SERVICE

These Vietnam veterans use personal effects to show the war's lasting effects

By ELIZABETH FORBES
STAFF WRITER

There's a novel about Vietnam called *The Things They Carried*, by a writer named Tim O'Brien, that matter-of-factly lists the Army-issue equipment and personal mementoes soldiers humped through the jungle.

That story comes to mind at a powerful photography exhibit now at the Center at High Falls, 60 Brown's Race. Vietnam War-era veterans, 36 of them, gaze from black-and-white portraits circling the brick-walled room.

Most of the vets hold souvenirs from their days of service: A framed Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Richard Nixon. A fading photo of a Huey helicopter, with a news clipping about winning the Distinguished Flying Cross. A pair of Vietnamese sandals. A Pan Am airline ticket home.

These are the tangible things they carried back from the war and put away. But they also carried back intangible things: memories and emotions that were put away because

nobody wanted to hear about Vietnam.

Their feelings, carried silently in heads and hearts for more than 20 years, find expression in the statements each veteran wrote to accompany his or her portrait. Sincere, moving, even poetic, these testimonies feed the exhibit's haunting impact.

"For us, it was very touching," says Ken Moore, president of the local Chapter 20 of Vietnam Veterans of America. "The people who wrote the articles, they said things that were precious and maybe haven't been said before."

Most of the show's subjects are members of Chapter 20. Moore is among them, holding his infantry badge and the bicolored flag of U.S. Army D Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry. He wrote an equation that sums up one thread running through the veterans' statements: "Hot, Fear, Death, Loneliness, Camaraderie = Vietnam."

The testimonies also help explain why Vietnam veterans talk so often about the need for healing. After two decades, their bitterness and confusion at being spat on, ignored and scorned haven't disappeared. Many of the veterans write about how their pride in serving their country turned to festering guilt and shame.

"I only hope my daughters can look at me with pride and say, 'That's my Daddy, we're proud to know he served his country as a Marine,'" writes Ray Melens.

Gerald Popen recalls how when he returned to this country, a young boy noticed his Navy uniform. The boy's mother pulled him away from Popen's contaminating presence. "I'm still trying to figure that one out," he writes.



Walking back
Gary Rodas
holds "Ho
Chi Minh"
sandals and
a photo of his
graduating
class at
boot camp.
He still
hurts to think
of the way he
was treated
when he
returned from
Vietnam.

Message home

Now a father
himself, with a
son in the
Marines, Chuck
Macaluso
wonders how
his parents felt
when they got
this telegram
saying he'd been
wounded.

A father's fear
James Wideman
worried about
having children
after he was
exposed to Agent
Orange. He says
son Christopher,
22 months, is "the
most important
thing in my life."



TOM HUSSEY

Viewing veterans

What: "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do for You . . . Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era," portraits of and writings by local veterans of that time

When: Through Nov. 28

Where: Center at High Falls, 60 Brown's Race (off State Street opposite Kodak Tower)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

Admission: Free

Call: (716) 325-2030

SERVICE, PAGE 5C

HOW VETERANS ARE DOING 1B

Service

FROM PAGE 1C

When Chuck Macaluso got out of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1969, he says, he didn't like to admit he'd been in Vietnam. "When we first got out, we didn't own up to being a vet," recalls the Greece resident, who served with the 3rd Marine Division at Phu Bai and Khe Sanh. "You were looked down on for taking part in it."

For Macaluso, thinking back to Vietnam brought him full circle to the present. He was photographed holding a telegram that was sent to his parents on Feb. 21, 1968, telling them he'd been wounded at Quang Tri. Now that his own son is a reservist in the Marines, he can imagine all too well a parent's shock and pain on getting bad news. In his essay, Macaluso imagines how his parents felt when they opened that document.

For Linda Langley-Barrett, who was a medic in Saigon, remembering Vietnam meant recalling how a friend she played checkers with, a patient who'd lost both legs, committed suicide one night.

For Fred Elliott (U.S. Army, 11th Armored Cavalry), it brought back a chain of impressions, somehow lyrical and chilling at once, from water buffalo in the rice paddies to a helicopter in flames.

"It was amazing, the writings that were submitted for the show," says photographer Tom Hussey of Rochester, who put the exhibit together with help from his wife, Vonda. "I think in a large part, it's because I was around so often."

Hussey has been spending time with members of Chapter 20 for

almost as long as he's been in Rochester. He arrived from Dallas six years ago to study for his master's degree in fine arts at Rochester Institute of Technology. He first decided to photograph Vietnam veterans for a graduate project, but his interest goes back to childhood.

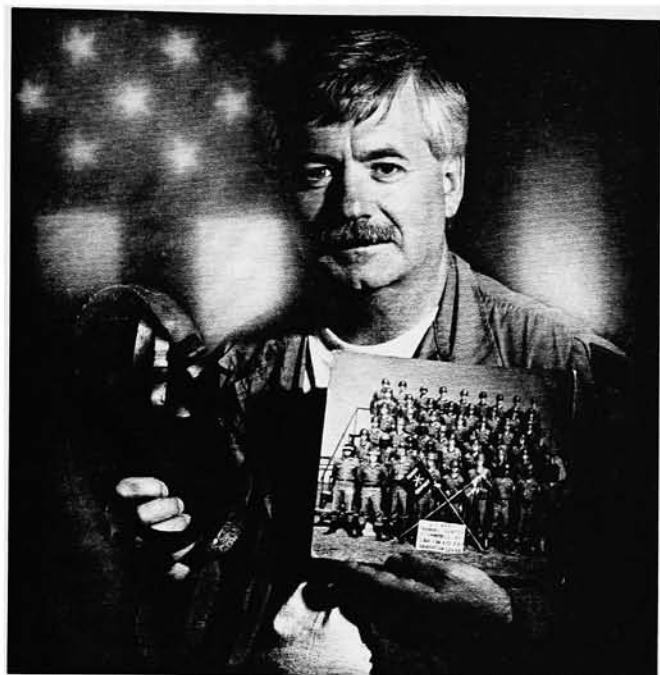
Hussey was 6 years old in 1970, when his father left the Air Force. The family moved from a military town in Texas up to Minnesota, and all of a sudden it wasn't cool that Dad had been a fighter pilot.

For a little boy, though, Dad was still a hero, one of the good guys. Hussey couldn't shake that double vision as he was growing up.

"It didn't make sense to me that anytime you heard anything about Vietnam vets on the news, it was always a negative thing," he says. "I held the belief that the majority of the Vietnam vets are just normal guys. They're related to you. They're teaching your kids. . . . You never hear anything about them because they never do anything to get on the news."

Hussey wants his photographs to upend the stereotype of the crazed vet. He calls it "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do for You . . . : Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era." The labels under each portrait tell what the former soldiers are today: attorney, truck driver, filmmaker, industrial engineer, airline safety inspector, health technician.

The parade of ordinary faces, smiling and somber, might have come from a small company's annual report or the year-end banquet of a co-ed softball team. There is nothing to distinguish this company but the things they carry in their hands and in their hearts. □



“Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You...” Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era

a photography exhibit of portraits by Tom Hussey with writings by Rochester Vietnam Era Vets



Place: Center at High Falls, Rochester Room

Date: November 4th-28th

Opening: November 4th, Reception 5:30-8:30 PM;

This exhibition is presented in celebration of Veterans Day, November 11th

“Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You...” Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era is a photography exhibit of portraits by Tom Hussey and writings by Rochester Vietnam Era Vets. Through this exhibit the Rochester photographer hopes to show the public a truer version of the stereotypical Vietnam Vet. They are your next door neighbors, teachers, police officers, firemen, and often—your boss. Their “Vietnam experience” is the only event that unifies them.

The exhibit includes B&W portraits of Rochester Vietnam Era veterans photographed either individually or with an item he or she saved from their time of service. Writings that accompany each portrait are from the veterans themselves. Some explain why the object they have is special, others relate their feelings then and/or now regarding the war in Vietnam. Their experiences brought them together during the 1960's and early 1970's, and through organizations like Vietnam Veterans of America and The Veterans Outreach Center it is bringing them back together and into the open twenty-five years later.

VERY IMPORTANT!!

The following must appear as shown with all printed publicity for exhibit:

This exhibit was made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Fund. In Monroe County, the Community Arts Grant Program is administered by Arts for Greater Rochester. Additional support was provided by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #20, The Veterans Outreach Center and Center at High Falls.

Thank you for your assistance!

Any questions regarding this exhibit should be directed to Tom or Vonda Hussey @ (716) 328-8637.

"Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You..."

Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era

a photography exhibit of portraits by Tom Hussey with writings by Rochester Vietnam Era Vets

Approximately 9.1 million Americans served during the Vietnam Era. These men and women are as diverse as any other linked group in this country. This statement does not necessarily agree with the media stereotype that has portrayed Veterans from that era as explosive men and women. A large segment of the general public still holds the conviction that Vietnam Veterans: are still troubled from the war and not normal...have more than their share of problems...are homeless and drug addicted. These problems exist, but are far from the norm.

These veterans are your next door neighbors, teachers, police officers, firemen, and often—your boss. Their "Vietnam experience" is the only event that unifies them. The war in Vietnam brought them together during the 1960's and early 1970's, and through organizations like the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and The Veterans Outreach Center it is bringing them back together and into the open now twenty-five years later.

For the past four years photographer, Tom Hussey, has been actively involved with the VVA; Genesee Valley Chapter #20, in Rochester, New York, and has become friends with the men and women who served during the Vietnam era. He has talked with them about their experiences and feelings concerning their military service during Vietnam and has seen the good they do for the community. Tom hopes to show the public a truer version of the Vietnam Vet through this exhibition of photographs and writings.



Place: Center at High Falls, Rochester Room

Date: November 4th-28th

Opening: November 4th, Reception 5:30-8:30 PM;

This exhibition is presented in celebration of Veterans Day, November 11th

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This exhibit includes thirty to thirty five 16x20 B&W portraits by photographer, Tom Hussey. Each veteran is photographed individually or with an item he or she saved from their time of service. Writings from the veterans themselves accompany each portrait. Some explain why the object they have is special, others relate their feelings then and/or now regarding their Vietnam Experience.

BIO

Tom Hussey is originally from Texas. He holds a BFA in Film and Photography from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. This exhibit will fulfill partial requirement for an MFA in Imaging Arts from Rochester Institute of Technology. He currently resides in Rochester, NY with his wife Vonda and daughter Julia. Tom and Vonda plan to relocate their Rochester photography studio to Dallas in 1995.

VERY IMPORTANT!!

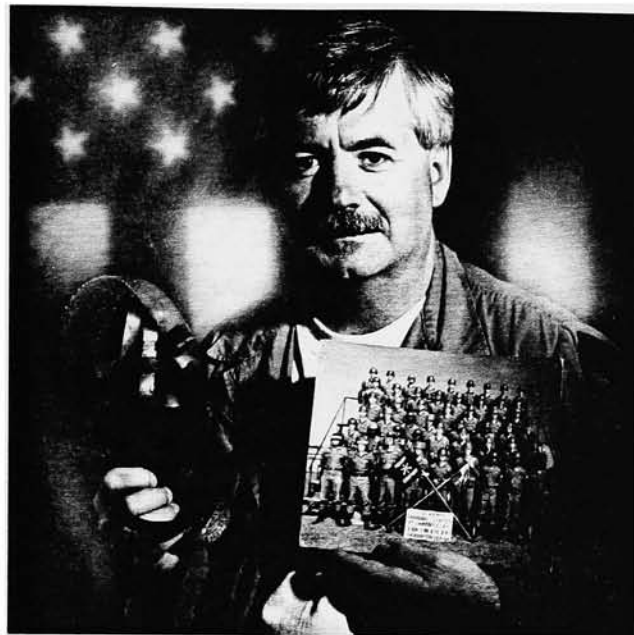
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"Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You..."



Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era

a photography exhibit of portraits by Tom Hussey with writings by Rochester Vietnam Era Vets

They are your next door neighbors, teachers, police officers, firemen, and often—your boss. Their "Vietnam experience" is the only event that unifies these men and women. Vietnam brought them together during the 1960's and early 1970's, and through organizations like Vietnam Veterans of America and The Veterans Outreach Center it is bringing them back together and into the open now twenty-five years later.

Place: Center at High Falls, Rochester Room

Date: November 4th-28th

Times: Gallery Hours W & Th 9:30-4:30, F 9:30-6, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-4

Opening: November 4th, 5:30-8:30 PM;

Reception with hors d'oeuvres & cash bar

Tom Hussey would like to thank the following for their generous support:

The veterans, without their willingness to share, this show would not have been possible

* Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter # 20 * Veterans Outreach Center *

* Arts for Greater Rochester * Center at High Falls *

This exhibit is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Fund. In Monroe County, the Community Arts Grant Program is administered by Arts for Greater Rochester.



HUSSEY & HUSSEY
PHOTOGRAPHERS

September 26, 1995

Brassey's Inc.
Suite 401 1313 Dolly Madison Blvd.
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Editorial Department:

The enclosed samples are for a book with the working title, *"Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You..." Understanding Veterans of the Vietnam Era*. It is a series of portraits of Vietnam Veterans from a typical community with an accompanying writing by each veteran. The writings are as different as the individuals; spanning a range of emotion from acceptance to despondency to rage. There have not been any other books published about the average cross section of the population that served during this era. All are about the media, personalities, and the major players. Little attention is paid to the millions who were called, served their country, and went home. Many veterans search for some sort of completion to this influential and often painful time of their lives.

Approximately 9.1 million Americans served during the Vietnam Era. These men and women are as diverse as any other linked group in this country. This statement does not necessarily agree with the media stereotype that has portrayed Veterans from that era as explosive men and women. The general public still holds the conviction that Vietnam Veterans: are still troubled from the war and not normal...have more than their share of problems...are homeless and drug addicted. These problems exist, but are far from the norm.

These veterans are your next door neighbors, teachers, police officers, firemen, and often—your boss. Their "Vietnam experience" is the only event that unifies them. The war in Vietnam brought them together during the 1960's and early 1970's, and through organizations like the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) they are coming back together and into the open now twenty-five years later.

I have been actively involved with the VVA; Genesee Valley Chapter #20, in Rochester, New York, and have become friends with the men and women who served during the Vietnam era. I have talked with them about their experiences and feelings concerning their military service. I have seen the good they do for the community. I hope to show the public a truer version of the Vietnam Vet through a selection of my photographs and writings by the veterans themselves. This work was originally a photo exhibit at The Center At High Falls in Rochester, New York.



HUSSEY & HUSSEY
PHOTOGRAPHERS

-2-

The following are excerpts from the show comment book:

Although too young to remember Vietnam, I have gotten somewhat of a sense of the kind of a person that is a Vietnam veteran. Pride, loyalty, extreme sacrifice and above all devotion to duty. A duty not sought out but asked of-and delivered. Some of the finest soldiers I served with were Vietnam Veterans and I admire them totally. I have lived with their flashbacks, was an understanding sounding board to their stories- or lack of them, during long nights in the field. I just wish I could understand the whole reasoning behind over a decade of sacrifice and duty they were asked to do. Sometimes things don't always make sense. Vietnam Veterans are among the finest people this country had and has to offer. Welcome home and God Bless.

Thank you for caring. I guess that in the back of my mind twenty-five years ago that it all would someday be worth the effort hoping that people like you would follow our generation. I was right you were worth the effort! God Bless.

Bravo! An excellent exhibition and even more cheers for tackling a subject not explained enough to "the rest of us." I felt fortunate to get a high lottery number in 1973-but I would have served if called. Now I understand why!

...Our stories are coming out thanks to you. This is the best thing I have seen in a long time. You're competing with "The Wall"...

Also see attached copy of editorial from the December 5th 1994 Rochester Times-Union as well as an article from the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle that ran Veterans Day, November 11th, 1994.

Commercially this book could be extremely successful. The conflict in Vietnam is still a very timely issue. There are so many Vietnam Veterans. We all have a friend or a relative who served. If marketed properly it could be a terrific gift giving coffee table book with a social purpose.

I have a hand made book of the portraits with their accompanying writings. (Total Word Count-11,634) I would be happy to forward it for your consideration. All veterans have signed a release to use their image for this project. Enclosed is a SASE for return of these samples.

Sincerely,

Tom Hussey

IMAGES FROM THE SHOW

Tom Hussey © 1995
Hussey & Hussey Photographers
(214) 741-4034



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Hussey & Hussey Photographers
(214) 741-4034



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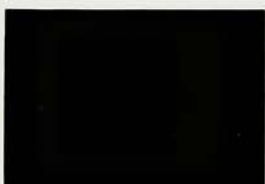


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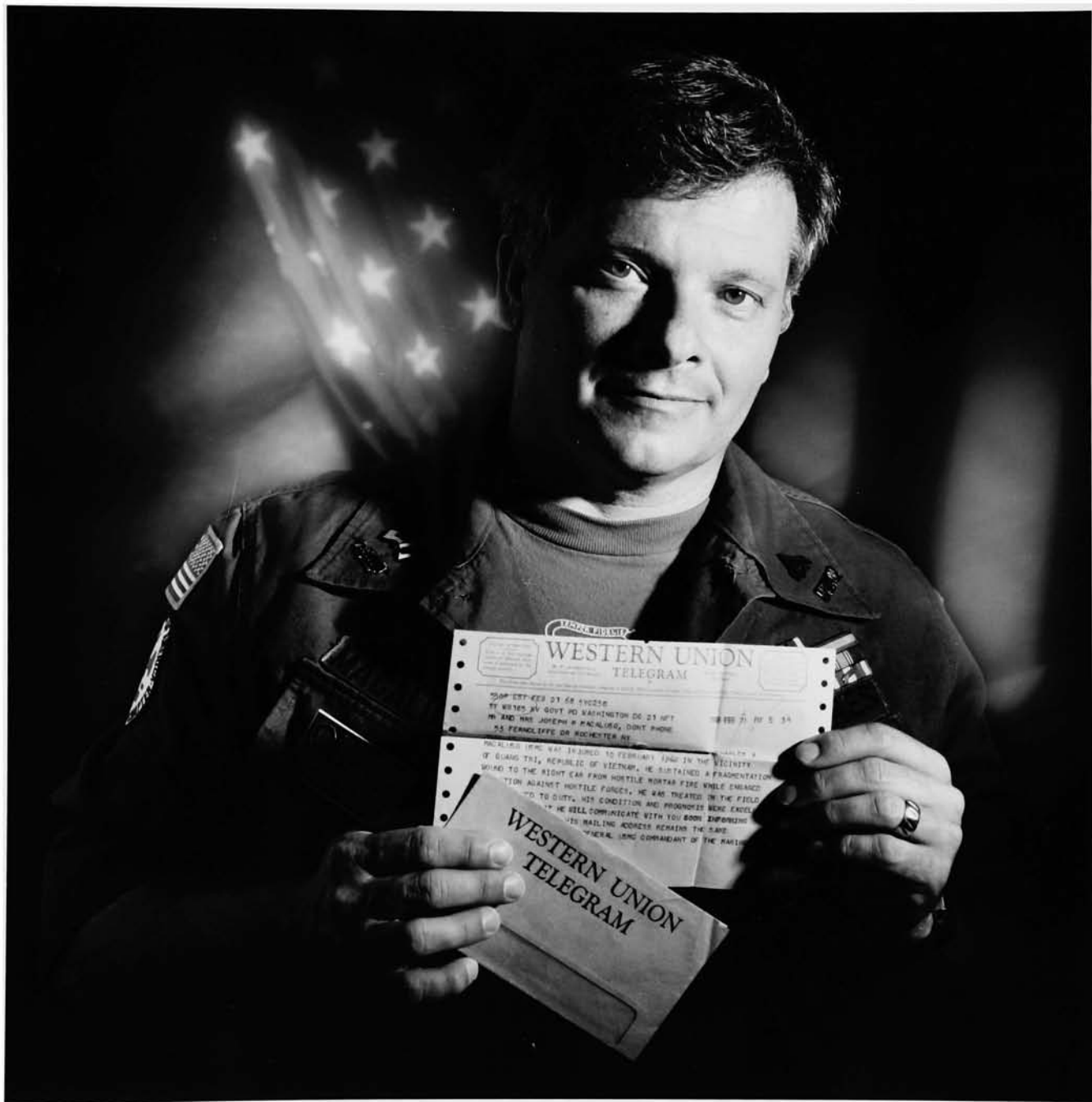


I joined the Marines in 1966, and was one of the “lucky” ones who made a six month “Med” Cruise. About three weeks of each month was spent “playing” war with our NATO Allies across southern Europe. It was the same game you played with your buddies, only you were more organized. After arriving back in the States, the vacation was over, everyone who had not been to Nam got their orders to go. Game time was over, we were going to the real thing. In the weeks of preparation, training was taken more seriously but death was not an issue. I didn’t know anyone killed in Nam and we sure didn’t run across it in our training. The only Vietnam Vets we saw were all alive and well.

I arrived in Nam and was assigned to *Echo* Co. 2/26 at Phu Bai. The next two months included working ambushes at night and being “choppered” to downed helicopter sites, setting up security during the day. On New Year’s Eve (‘67) we were told the battalion was moving farther north to some small base called Khe Sanh, the rest is history.

In the picture I am holding one of the three telegrams my parents received notifying them of my injuries. Today as a parent with my son in the Marines, it is hard for me to comprehend the flood of emotions my parents felt when opening the door and being handed a telegram, knowing full well it would be bad news. It is a reminder that as servicemen we experienced all the stresses and emotions that came with combat, but our loved ones at home also had stresses. The stress of knowing some day the man from Western Union may knock on their door.

Chuck Macaluso



CHUCK MACALUSO

U.S. Marine Corps - "E" Co. 2/26, 3rd Marine Division
August 1966 - April 1969
Phu Bai, Khe Sanh

Process Control Technician at Eastman Kodak

While I was growing up I was taught about patriotism. Not just at school but at home. Love for country went hand in hand with wanting to become a US Marine. Within a month of high school graduation and less than three weeks after my 18th birthday I was on my way to Parris Island, South Carolina, to become a Marine.

After a grueling, physical ten weeks of training I made the grade. Graduation day from boot camp was such a proud day. I finally became a real gung-ho Marine. A proud American, ready to defend my country and loved ones at any expense.

I was sent to Vietnam in February of '69. I was proud to defend my country and "stop the spread of Communism"—so we were told. It didn't take me long to realize I'd been deceived by my own government. I never thought it would lie to us and cover up its mistakes with the lives of its sons and daughters.

I was wounded as we landed in country. I got a piece of shrapnel in my leg from a rocket attack. A rude welcome and an awakening. It was a *band-aid* wound, so I joined my unit in the morning.

For the next few months I humped the bush, waded through rice paddies, walked the perimeter, and rode shotgun on truck convoys for supplies. Sometimes I helped unload the dead and wounded off choppers. Sometimes they were my friends. Eighteen or nineteen year old guys that instead of being back at home dating girls and living it up, were fighting to stay alive—never knowing quite why, but doing our duty.

After a few months "in country" I suffered a serious back injury and was medevaced back to the world. I was going home feeling like a proud Marine. I had served my country honorably and done my job the best I could.

We were carried off the plane on stretchers at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC. While waiting for a bus to the hospital, protesters broke through security and ran up to us yelling obscenities and calling us names (i.e. baby killers, war mongers etc.). They spat on us. I was just as scared of my fellow country-men as I was of our enemies in Vietnam.

I thought I was home and I could forget the war and get back to just being a teenager. Little did I realize we would still be fighting that war within for years to

come. After that night in DC I knew I could not tell people I'd been a proud Marine and American who had served his country well in Vietnam.

For twenty some years I bottled up guilt, shame and depression. It played a part in ending my marriage of ten plus years. I found out I was suffering from P.T.S.D. I'm doing much better now, thanks to the love and understanding of my two lovely daughters, Stephanie & Courtney. They stand by me and love me for who I am. I don't want to forget to mention the respect I receive from my fellow veterans in the VVA Chapter. We were together then helping each other and we're still together now.

When I went to Vietnam I thought about being a hero. I know now what it takes to be a hero. I am not ashamed to say "I am not a hero." I did what was asked of me, the best I could. I only hope my daughters can look at me with pride and say "That's my Daddy, we're proud to know he served his country as a Marine. He's our hero and we love him."

Ray Mellens



RAY MELENS

U.S. Marine Corps - 3rd Marine Division,
3rd Med. Bn., H&S Co.
1968 - 1969
Quang Tri Province

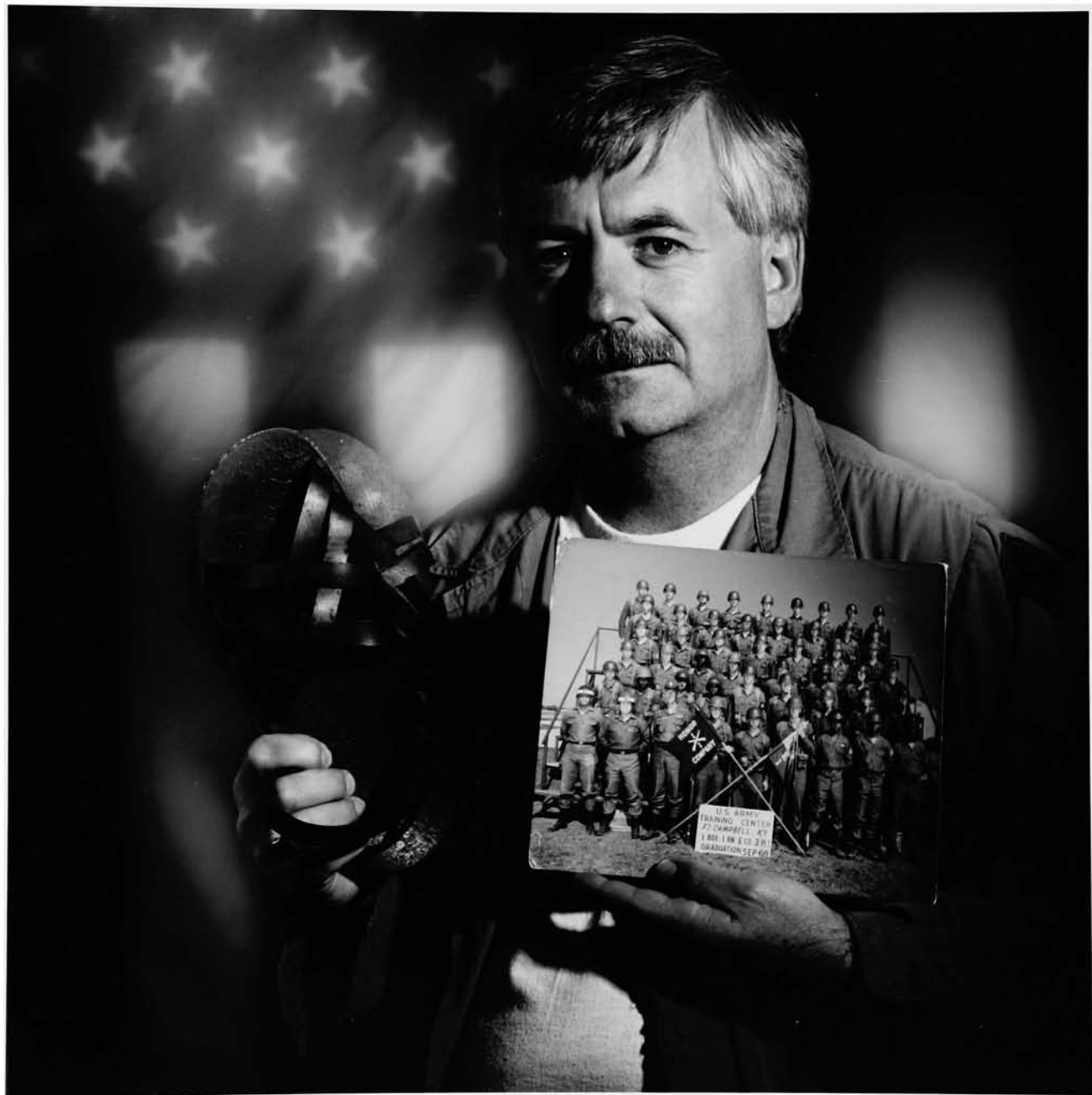
Industrial Distribution Sales

It seems difficult to comprehend, now after 24 years, 3 months and 13 days as a Vietnam Veteran, that I still do not really know why I was sent to Vietnam. Do you think my friends, some who died, that are in the picture I am holding knew? I have spent the last five years actively trying to find the answer, but all to no avail. For my return trip home I was issued a dress uniform with all the campaign and medal ribbons I was authorized. I was then sent on my way via Seattle Airport for my trip home. On that day, December 13th, 1969 at 17:30 hours, an individual out of a group spit at me as I was passing down the hall to my gate. Later that evening a person called out to me at O'Hare Airport and said "to bad you didn't die." Surely those two individuals must have known why I was sent to Vietnam. They both seemed to hate me for it. I must have done something wrong for the previous 365 days to justify such action. On December 14th, I walked into our family's house. It was my "Welcome Home" party. Within the hour a relative asked me how I could have been apart of such a wrongful action. People, what the hell are you all talking about? Welcome home.

Those previous 12 months became a secret. Nobody should know that I served in. . . *you know where*. God, what an awful way to treat a person who lived next to you, worked with you, who dated you and who had some of the best young adult times ever with you. After almost 25 years I can see guilt on your faces now that I can look at them. I can look at them because I know it wasn't anything I did. I'm not guilty of anything but being a patriotic American, loyal to my country, trusting your elected leaders. Remember, I was not old enough to vote. You sent me to Vietnam!

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #20 of Rochester is something to be proud of by all. My joining this group four years ago has returned my pride and let my secret out. And yes, took away the burden of a battle that I was loosing. Family, friends, neighbors, lovers and strangers, you were wrong 25 years ago, you were wrong...You hurt us for something for which we were not responsible.

Gary Rodas



GARY RODAS

U.S. Army - 18th Engineer Brigade, 509th Engineer Co. PB
July 1968 - July 1970
Pleiku, Ban Me Thuot

Process Control Engineer at Eastman Kodak

Jerome Treeter was full of life and humor. While in Vietnam Jerome stepped on a land mine. The lower half of his body was blown off. While working first shift one summer day at Fort Stewart Medical Army Hospital, a new group of casualties came in from Vietnam via Germany. Jerome was one of those guys. His first words to me were "I know you are gonna be my Army Nurse because there is no way I'll let you get away." He had a smile that would light up an entire room. I smiled and welcomed him home.

Months passed and Jerome and I became the best of friends. We got into lots of mischief together. I always managed to get him as a patient regardless of the shift I was working—of course that was planned.

He was amazingly humorous and full of life. He would say things like, "My legs are stiff today"—although he had no legs. "Linda, let's go for a walk, I need to get out of this bed today" and "the last one to reach the door is a rotten egg." The funniest thing he would tell me was that when he got home he was gonna go dancing with every woman he knew. I would have a strange look that would get him laughing until he couldn't laugh anymore.

Jerome was a great checker player and he loved to play with me because I really hated the game and didn't know it very well. He knew I hated checkers so he tried to make it interesting. We played for the dumbest things such as socks, boots and other articles that we could someday remember each other by. The last time I saw Jerome alive he let me win his cap in a game of checkers. I was on duty second shift that night and after the game we talked and he fell asleep. My shift ended around 11:00pm. Around 3:00am I received a call from a co-worker to tell me that Jerome had committed suicide. Of course I was in shock and really didn't believe it, but it was true. Why someone so full of life would leave like that is beyond me.

Jerome was a friend; a friend I will never forget. Thank you Jerome for your spirit.

Linda Langley-Barrett



LINDA LANGLEY-BARRETT

U.S. Army - U.S. Garrison Medical Corps
June 1972 - May 1975
Saigon

Office Manager at the Vet Center